

**SC National Guard College Assistance Program (SCNG CAP)  
Review/Evaluation Committee Meeting  
Main Conference Room  
April 13, 2017  
10:00 a.m.**

**SC Air National Guard**

MSgt. Steven David

**Guests**

Ms. Julie Frick, USC Columbia

**SC Army National Guard**

SFC Paul Mead

CPT. Jacinda White

**CHE Staff**

Ms. Camille Brown

Ms. Lorinda Copeland

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

**Institutional Representatives**

Ms. Kim Ellisor, Francis Marion University

Mr. Hank Fuller, The Citadel

Ms. Cindy Peachey, USC Columbia

Ms. Michelle Upchurch, Limestone College

**1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes**

Introductions were made by everyone in attendance. Dr. Karen Woodfaulk asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2016, meeting. The motion was made (Mead) and seconded (White) to accept the minutes as written. The minutes were accepted as written.

**2. SCNG CAP Awards Update**

- **Fall 2016**

- **Spring 2017**

Ms. Lorinda Copeland provided an update on the College Assistance Program (CAP) awards for fall 2016 and spring 2017. As of April 12, 2017, there were 639 awards in the amount of \$1,400,739.75 for fall 2016. For spring 2017, there were 225 awards in the amount of \$492,489.25. Ms. Copeland also reported that for fall 2016, 157 Army members and 44 Air members did not receive CAP. For spring 2017, 164 Army members and 35 Air members did not receive CAP. The deadline for institutions to submit a request for funds and/or return of funds for spring 2017 is May 30, 2017.

**3. SCNG CAP Application Window AY 2017-18**

Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the application window would open June 1 through August 1. Ms. Copeland stated that she had disseminated information regarding the application window to the institutions. SFC Mead reported that the Army Guard would be communicating information regarding the application window through social media, Guard units, and the Army Guard's website.

**4. SCNG CAP Summer 2017 Awards Process**

Ms. Copeland stated that there would be no changes to the summer awards process currently in place. It was discussed and decided that a process change was not necessary due to the low number of summer awards. Information regarding the summer awards process was disseminated to the institutions. Ms. Copeland also reminded the Committee that everyone in the database would be coded "ineligible" on June 1. SFC Paul Mead reported that some of the

Army Guard's members communicated that they would be enrolling during the summer semester.

## **5. SCNG CAP Program Evaluation**

### **- Student Survey**

### **- Graduation Data**

Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the Guard had disseminated the survey in February 2017. Dr. Woodfaulk asked the Guard if there was an update regarding the results. SFC Mead responded that he did not have an update because he had been out of the office. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that although the survey deadline was May 1, the survey deadline could be aligned with the application window deadline. MSgt. Steven David stated that the majority of the Air Guard's survey responses questioned why CAP cannot be used for the master's degree. CPT. Jacinda White asked if the intended audience for the survey were Guard members who are using CAP or all members who could provide feedback. MSgt. David responded that the Air Guard's survey responses included responses from members who are ineligible for CAP.

Ms. Camille Brown provided clarification regarding the graduation data that she had previously generated. Ms. Brown stated when a graduation rate is calculated, there is a cohort of students starting at a point in time. The federal government calculates the graduation rate six years later for a bachelor's degree and three years later for an associate's degree. These students are first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students. Ms. Brown stated for CAP recipients, there is no starting date. When a CAP recipient becomes eligible, it is not known if the member has previously earned credit hours and what the enrollment classification is. Ms. Brown stated that one concern expressed regarding the data that she previously had generated was that the calculation included members who had never received CAP. Ms. Brown stated that the CAP recipients who never received an award could be removed from the calculation. Ms. Brown stated that she did not know how a time-frame could be defined for the graduation data.

Dr. Woodfaulk stated that a calculation could be generated from the group who were awarded and graduated. Ms. Brown stated that another concern expressed was that members may have been in the database for only a year but were also included in the calculation. However, the student may have become eligible for CAP with credit hours already earned. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that she would like to identify data that would provide a starting date and an end date to explain the graduation rate. Ms. Brown stated that the scholarship file could possibly be used as a starting point instead of the CAP file. MSgt. David stated that hopefully some type of measurement for the graduation rate could be developed for future years. Ms. Brown suggested that moving forward, the scholarship file should be reviewed to determine if it could be used to identify a starting point.

## **6. SCNG CAP Proposed Regulation**

### **- Update**

Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the proposed regulation was moving through the General Assembly and that the regulation had not been withdrawn. If the proposed regulation was approved, the regulation would be effective AY2017-18. Dr. Woodfaulk informed the Committee that upon review of this process and in discussion with the SC National Guard, the appeals language in the regulation was changed to "exception to policy." CAP recipients would request an "exception to policy" with their respective branch of service versus the institution for an appeal.

## **7. Proposed Removal of the 130 Attempted Credit Hour Maximum**

Dr. Woodfaulk stated that there had been previous discussion regarding removal of the 130 attempted credit hour maximum. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that it was decided by the Guard and CHE Staff that a one page “white paper” would be developed. A draft of the “white paper” had been forwarded to both branches of the Guard. CHE staff was waiting on feedback from the Guard. Once the “white paper” is finalized, the Committee will also be forwarded a copy. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the proposed removal of the 130 attempted credit hour maximum has not received negative feedback from the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services or the Commission.

Dr. Woodfaulk stated that a proposal to include the master’s degree as an eligible program of study had not been approved by the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services or the Commission. Dr. Woodfaulk stated the proposal to include the master’s degree as an eligible program of study would have to be reviewed and a “white paper” developed. A priority model that would serve undergraduate members first would have to be developed. However, the proposal to include the master’s degree as an eligible program of study would have to be presented to the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services and the Commission for endorsement. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the question may be asked whether all undergraduate members have been served and whether the program is doing exactly what it is supposed to do. If all undergraduate members have been served, a possible proposal might be that additional funding be used for the master’s degree.

Dr. Woodfaulk asked the Committee if there was any feedback regarding the proposal to include the master’s degree as an eligible program of study. Mr. Hank Fuller stated that he did not have much enthusiasm for master’s degrees because he knows there is limited funding. Dr. Woodfaulk responded that there may possibly be funding for other opportunities. However, eliminating the 130 attempted credit hour maximum may increase the number of undergraduate members eligible for CAP. Dr. Woodfaulk also stated that the use of state funds for master’s degrees has been discussed in the past. Dr. Woodfaulk stated the most appropriate use of funds would be researched.

Ms. Cindy Peachey stated that she has not had CAP recipients asked about the use of CAP for a master’s degree. The 130 attempted credit hour maximum is the primary issue for their CAP recipients. Ms. Michelle Upchurch and Ms. Kim Ellisor stated that they have not received questions regarding CAP and master’s degrees. MSgt. David stated that CAP recipients may not ask about the use of CAP for master’s degrees because it is known that CAP cannot be used. Ms. Peachey stated that one possible concern would be that recipients of other state scholarships who did not receive the scholarship for the maximum terms may question the use of CAP for the master’s degree.

Dr. Woodfaulk responded that a potential question is whether CAP is overfunded. It may also be asked if the master’s degree is a need or a want. Ms. Peachey stated there should be caution regarding the master’s degree if the desire is to remove the 130 attempted credit hour maximum. There may be funding issues because of the potential number of additional eligible members. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that CHE staff will work on securing a Legislative sponsor to

strike the 130 language from the statute during the summer. A bill would have to be pre-filed during the fall.

**8. Other Business, Comments, or Concerns**

Dr. Woodfaulk asked the Committee if they there were any issues or concerns. There were no issues or concerns expressed. Mr. Fuller asked if there was a process still in place for Army members to apply for CAP who would be completing AIT after the close of the application window. SFC Mead responded yes. SFC Mead will notify the institution when those members complete AIT and become eligible.

Ms. Copeland will contact the Committee to schedule a meeting during the fall.

**Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted,

Lorinda Copeland  
Recording Secretary